

Legislative Testimony
HB 5630 AAC The Establishment Of Licensure For An Advanced
Dental Hygiene Practitioner
Public Health Committee
Monday, March 16, 2009
Dr. Joseph Picone, D.M.D.

As a Southington resident and a dentist, I am writing to you regarding House Bill 5630. Contrary to what the proponents of this bill claim, it will not increase access to dental care in Connecticut, but will only serve to lower the quality of care. The access to care problem is not a manpower issue, as there are many dentists in our state with available chair hours. These dentists are quite capable of meeting the needs of our population if given the proper incentives.

House Bill 5630 will simply create a lower tier of treatment without providing any benefit and most likely doing a great deal of harm. It is impossible for an "Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner" with the education required in the bill to perform the indicated treatments with the same level of expertise and insights as a dentist who has attended dental school for four years. Dentistry is much more than mechanics and the necessary background in physiology, biochemistry, material science, anatomy, etc. etc. cannot be learned under the educational requirements set forth in this bill.

In the course of doing a single dental restoration (filling), decisions often must be made which require much more than the basic skills and knowledge of an ADHP. I hope you will consider these points when evaluating the merits of House Bill 5630.

Sincerely yours,

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